(d) to (f) Grant of international traffic rights to all scheduled Indian carriers eligible to go abroad is an on-going process. According to the process, all eligible carriers submit their operational plans in the first and third quarters of each year. After examination, traffic rights are granted to private scheduled carriers depending on the availability of traffic rights to particular countries/routes and after giving due consideration to the operational plans of national carriers.

Garbage dumps around airports

1489. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic and International airlines have reported against increasing number of bird hits due to expanding garbage dumps around the major airports in the country; and

(b) what steps have been taken by the Ministry, State Government and the respective municipal authorities to keep the surroundings of airports clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. As against 189 bird hit incident reported in the year 2005, only 167 bird hit incidents were reported in the year 2006.

(b) While bird hits have not increased in number, measures have been taken to reduce/ eradicate bird activity at the airports. Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the source of bird attraction and take remedial steps for prevention of such incidents. Various, specific steps such as proper disposal of garbage prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage bins establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring of birds etc. have also been taken to reduce the incidence of bird hits.

Recuritment of air staff in Goa

1490. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives representation to the people of district/town/state in which airports are located, in the matter of jobs of pilots cabin-crew, engineers, clerical staff, technical staff etc.; and

(b) the number of such personnel, either by way of giving representations of otherwise from Goa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Recruitment to all the posts in Government/PSUs, including Airports Authority of India (AAI) is made in accordance with the procedure prescribed for the relevant post.

(b) The number of personnel in Group "C" & "D" belonging to the State of Goa in Western Region of AAI is 25.

Fate of Employees After the Merger of Indian and Air India

†1491. SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) by when a complete merger of Indian and Air India is likely to take place;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) what action has been taken so far; and

(c) what decisions have been taken in regard to their employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) While, the legal process of merger of Air India and Indian Airlines into a new company called the National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL) has been completed, the complete merger of the two airlines is likely to be achieved over 18 to 24 months.

(c) Due care has been given to the interest of the Employees in the Scheme of Amalgamation approved by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. All employees of the erstwhile Indian Airlines Limited and Air India Limited have become employees of NACIL without any breach or interruption of service and on terms and conditions not less favourable then those applicable to them on the date of amalgamation. A-3-tier Grievance Redressal Machinery has also been put into place to address employee grievances.

Congestion at Airports

1492. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the airports in general and the airports in metro cities in particular are very much crowded and congested;

(b) whether it is a fact that the existing infrastructural facilities are totally inadequate and are unable to absorb the unpreacedented inflow of passengers on the one side and the entry of number of private operators on the other;

(c) what are the short term/long term measures to tide over the situtation; and

(d) whether there would be a time frame before which the magnitude of the problem can be mitigated and managed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Due to the unprecedented surge in the traffic during the last three years, there is a limitation of airports infrastructure, especially at Delhi and Mumbai airports. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has initiated major development works and necessary projections have already been made in the 11th Five Year Plan.

To cope up with the spurt in air traffic, following specific actions have been/are being taken-Construction of new terminals, expansion of existing terminals, Construction of additional aircraft parking stands for over night parking, Construction of new rapid exist and parallel taxiways to enhance runway capacity, introduction of new ATC procedures for simultaneous use of both runways at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) and Chhatrapati Shivaji International (CSI) Airports, posting of additional ATC officers in ATC units, ban on general aviation and during peak hours at IGI and CSI Airports, modernisation and development of IGI and CSI Airports through Joint Venture Companies and Construction of Greenfield airports at Bangalore and Hyderabad in Public Private Partnership.

Services at Delhi Airport

1493. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that services at the Delhi airport have deteriorated further after privatisation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that space, which was kept for the seating of passengers, has been converted into shops, restaurants, etc. thereby causing great discomfort to the passengers; and